

# The Powerful Symbol of the Cross

## Part 1: Signs and Symbols Chart

| Sign                                    | Symbol                                       |
|---|--|
| One meaning                             | Many meanings (multivalent)                  |
| No interpretation needed                | Requires interpretation                      |
| Static (unchanging) meaning             | Organic (living and changing) meaning        |
| Presentation/appearance does not change | Presentation/appearance can evolve or change |
| Means the same thing to all people      | Means different things to different people   |

## Part 2: Journal Entry

- A. Describe or draw the cross or crucifix you chose.
- B. Why are you attracted to this cross or crucifix?
- C. What unique meaning does it convey to you? For example, what does it tell you about life, love, God, Jesus, faith, suffering, hope, etc.?
- D. What is one interesting point that emerged from discussion with your partner? (*Complete after the conversation with your partner.*)

## Part 3: Homework

Design your own cross or crucifix. How would you represent what this multivalent symbol means *to you*? Symbolize your own struggles, your own pain, and your own hope of resurrection. In other words, express your own experience of the Paschal Mystery.

**Option 1 (preferred):** Actually draw or design your cross or crucifix. On the back, note if you are envisioning it to be made of a particular material (like clay, wood, gold, silver, etc.), and explain any part of your design that your teacher might not recognize.

**Option 2:** Write a detailed description of your cross or crucifix, including its appearance (including the material it would be made of), its size, and how it would symbolize your own unique experience of the Paschal Mystery.

